

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, May 11, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Washington May 18 11 th (1882) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am very sorry that I have not written for so long, but can only say that I daily wonder at your having time to do as much as I know you do as I find the care of my three babies, the two youngest, are not the most troublesome, more than I am equal to.

Elsie and her little friends were very much pleased with the pretty picture book, but dear Mrs. Bell neither Alec nor I can bear the idea of you robbing yourself of your first dividend. Both our little ches have as much now as they will ever need. You may not perhaps remember that, when we were married Alec settled some of his foreign patents in trust on me and the children. They are now worth nearly half a million of which about seventy-five thousand is cash. As we have now quite as such as we need Alec proposes in some future time to dissolve the trust and give the property entirely to them, so that even while we live they will have money of their own.

Elsie had such a nice birthday party over at Mamma's big empty house which we had decorated for the occassion. There was so much room for them to play in and it was so nice and cool, they had a lovely time. The supper table up in Papa's room too looked very pretty with the cake and elephant-in icecream candles one for each year, strawberries bread and butter and chocolate. Elsie too was bright and well and enjoyed it with all her might. She seems to have quite got over her trouble and is flourishing even in the hot weather. Alec too is happy, he went to the dentist's in New York whonfilled his tooth for him without any trouble, and since then Alec has not had the slightest pain. He is very busy and happy in his work and has today made a great advance in his new invention. A new company to work the telephone in foreign countries is being formed and Charlie is

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one of the original subscribers for stook, and Alec hopes he will soon have money enough to support a wife on.

One of my cousins is staying with us now and this afternoon we took her to see Captain Paul Boyton perform in his rubber suit. he seemed to get along very well, and his dress was not at all bulky or cumbersome and he could stand straight up in the water and turn around firing here and there with remarkable quickness. He ended the exhibition by blowing up a miniature vessel about two yards long. The water all around was lifted up like a cyclone and in an instant the whole ship had disappeared only a few small bits of wood returning from the air into which it had been thrown.

We see in the paper that the Steamer Heider was sighted off Ireland Monday and we suppose Papa and his family are safe in London but have heard nothing more.

I am very tired tonight so please excuse this stupid letter and believe me

Ever yours affectionately Mabel By the way Cahrlie writes he hopes soon to sign himself other than "Yours Affectionately Charlie" and I feel quite hurt that he should ever "hope" to dislike me. I must not forget to ask you to thank Uncle David for his very kind note to me some time ago. Berta was quite unhappy when she found I had said anything to you about the matter. She had not expected a letter and was quite satisfied and content to believe in Charlie's father and Mother's love without, it was only me who was jealous for our little Ber.